Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

News

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VOLUME 18, No.1 JANUARY 1989

STATE LIBRARY HAS NEW LEADER

Richard T. Miller is the new Montana State Librarian. Miller, who began working on January 4, was formerly Assistant State Librarian in Missouri.

Miller was selected by the State Library Commission from a group of five finalists after they were interviewed by five different groups including state library employees, a selection committee, interested parties, State Library Program Managers, and the Commission.

Miller is 41 years old, married, and has one four-year-old daughter.

He replaces Debbie Schlesinger who has been acting as State Librarian since Sara Parker left that position in July to become Pennsylvania State Librarian. Schlesinger has returned to her permanent position as Director of the Lewis & Clark Library in Helena.

STATE AID BILL TO BE INTRODUCED

"Information Access Montana" is the name of a state aid for libraries bill, sponsored by the Montana Library Association, to be introduced this legislative session. If voted in, it would provide $3 million in assistance to Montana libraries. The money would be used for interlibrary loan reimbursement, support for federations, state aid to public libraries, and for a statewide public library card program.

Specifically, the interlibrary loan funding would be used to reimburse eligible libraries for the handling costs of materials loaned to libraries in the state. Eligible libraries are those operated by public colleges and universities, public schools or districts, public agencies for institutionalized persons and non-profit private educational or research institutions, and public libraries.

Support for federations is needed because the current source of funding, coal severance taxes, are dwindling. Federations facilitate efficient use of materials and skills through resource sharing and cooperative projects and continuing education.

(See Bill pg. 3)

ELLEN NEWBERG RESIGNS

Ellen Newberg, director of Parmly Billings Public Library since 1983, resigned on January 13 to become director of the Kitsap Regional Library in Bremerton, Washington.

In a Billings Gazette article Newberg said she looks back with a sense of accomplishment over her own contributions which she lists, among others, as conversion of the library's manual card catalog to an automated system, elimination of an approximately $300,000 deficit and establishment of a reserve, and establishment of the Parmly Billings Library Foundation.

In addition to her successes at Parmly Billings, Newberg has been a leader in the Montana library community as well. She served as Coordinator of the South Central Federation and as spokesperson for all the coordinators. Nationally, Newberg served as American Library Association Councilor from Montana.

REFERENCE SKILLS INSTITUTE IN HELENA

The Montana State Library will present a Basic Reference Skills Institute in Helena from Monday, June 19, 1989 at 2 P.M. through Thursday, June 22 at 12:00 A.M. All students' expenses, including meals, accommodations, materials and car mileage will be furnished at no charge as part of a Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant.

Karin Ford, Associate Director for Information Services at the Idaho State Library, will be the main instructor. Certificates will be awarded to persons completing the course.

The workshop is designed for library personnel who do not hold a formal degree in library science. Registration will be limited to forty participants. Registration materials will be mailed in March.

NEW BOOKS AT THE STATE LIBRARY

The Montana State Library collects materials relevant to librarianship and to library science. Beginning this month, the State Library News will feature short descriptions (not reviews) of new books available to borrow from the State Library. Persons interested in borrowing these or other books should call 444-3004 or write the Montana State Library, Interlibrary Loans, 1515 E. 6th, Helena, 59620.

The Ivywash Community Library by Faith Fox features creative, practical and inexpensive ideas for the library director including pragmatic solutions on supervising volunteers, fundraising, public relations and inexpensive graphics.

Online Search Services in the Academic Library by Janice F. Simcoski is intended to assist the manager or coordinator of online search services in the academic library" from planning an online services proposal through establishment of such a service. This book could also be of help to anyone interested in an overview of how online searching works in a library setting.

The Creative Volunteer Community by Dr. Eva Schindler Rainman is a series of writings from over 30 years of the author's experiences dealing with volunteers in highly responsible areas such as serving on library boards and fundraising.

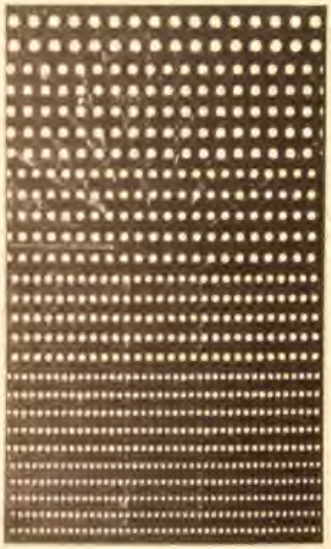
An Evaluative Directory to Producers and Distributors of Unabridged Books on Cassette Tape by Preston Jones Hoffman is a concise Occasional paper from the University of Illinois. The 37-page booklet is packed with information about books on tape and gives fairly detailed information about the various vendors including genres available, average costs, and ratings of tape quality. This publication may be purchased for five dollars plus two dollars for handling from OCCASIONAL PAPERS, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Publications Office, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, 249 Armory Building, 505 E. Armory St., Champaign, Illinois 61820. Checks should be made payable to University of Illinois.

FELLOWSHIPS ABROAD AVAILABLE

The American Library Association has announced that applications are being accepted for its 1989-90 Library Book Fellows program. The program seeks to enable librarians and publishers to broaden their experience through a short period of service overseas. Positions will be open in Africa, Jamaica, Brazil, China, Norway, Ireland and other locations. Requirements and positions vary. Application deadline is April 15, 1989. Persons interested in more detailed information and position descriptions should contact Sallie Fenning at the State Library, 1515 E. 6th, Helena, 59620, 444-5353.

LIBRARIES MAY TAPE READING RAINBOW

There will be ten new Reading Rainbow programs this season. Reading Rainbow is a Public Television children's series that features and reviews children's books. The producers have announced that public libraries will have the right to tape the programs directly off the air to show in-house and to lend to users. Five of the new programs will be shown the week of March 27 and the rest between then and September 8. More information about the free-use rights and a list of books which will be featured in March shows are available by writing GPN, P.O. Box 80669, Lincoln, NE 68501 or calling toll free (800) 228-4630.



YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW...

Due to popular demand, Mary Bushing has written an outline of procedures to be followed in hiring a library director. This concise guide may be obtained by contacting Diane Gunderson at the State Library, 1515 E. 6th, Helena, 59620 444-5349.

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Also available from the State Library are 1989 Library Services and Construction Act Title II grant applications for construction projects. These federal grants are targeted for construction of new libraries, remodeling of new facilities to improve energy conservation and to meet standards, particularly to create or improve access for handicapped persons. The total amount available to Montana will be $154,282. Completed applications will be due in April of 1989 for funds which are currently available.
Applications may be obtained from Diane Gunderson at the State Library.

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Sheila Cates, LSCA Coordinator, is seeking photographs of completed library building projects which were funded by Title II grants. If your library has such prints or negatives available (negatives will be returned) please send them to Sheila at the State Library, 1515 E. 6th, Helena, MT 59620.

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Many of the librarians attending the Centennial workshop at last year's Montana Library Association Conference expressed interest in lists indicating what Centennial materials are available around the state. It was felt by the group that there is a need for such lists because of heightened interest in Montana and Montana history in Montana's centennial year.

Two Helena librarians, Sidney Poole and Dorthea Simonson, have agreeed to take on the tasks of developing the lists for use by all Montana libraries. Some libraries have already responded. The assistance of everyone who can help is requested. Lists of books for grades K through 8 about Montana and/or by Montanans should be sent to Sidney Poole, 713 Harrison, Helena, MT 59601. Lists of materials for high school through adult readers should be directed to Dorthea Simonson, c/o Lewis & Clark Library, 120 Last Chance Mall, Helena, MT 59601.

(Bill cont. from 1)

State aid for public libraries would make library service throughout the state more equitable by basing distribution of funds on a formula using population and geographical factor. It would also allow libraries to improve and extend services.

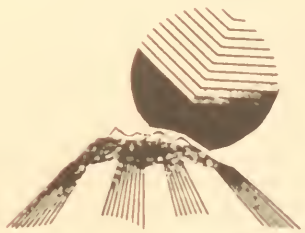
The multilibrary card would allow Montanans to check out books from any participating library in the state. The proposal is based on the Multilibrary Project of a few years ago. The project was judged as successful by its administrator, Georgia Lomax, for a variety of reasons. The anticipated problem of books being checked and not returned did not materialize and 90 percent of the 390 library users responding to a project survey said they would like to see the project continue and expand statewide.

MLA/MPLA JOINT CONFERENCE IN BILLINGS

The Montana Library Association (MLA) Annual Conference will offer expanded opportunities this year to meet new people and to gain new perspectives. In Billings on April 26 through 29 there will be a joint conference with the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA). The MPLA is a multi-state organization of which Montana is a member. The other states are Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

The Focus, MLA's newsletter, reports that the conference at the Billings Sheraton and the Radisson Northern Hotels will feature speakers Ivan Doig, author of This House of Sky, and Kare Anderson, author of Cutting Deals with Unlikely Allies.

There will be a variety of day-long pre and post conference workshops dealing with topics such as managing the one-person library, fundraising, communication skills and census information. There will also be several short workshops during the conference.
Registration information has been made available in the MPLA newsletter to MLA members. Those who are not MLA members and who would like to know more about the conference should contact Peggy Smith, Skyview High School, 1775 High Sierra Blvd., Billings, 59105.



The United Nations has designated 1990 International Literacy Year. The ILY six color poster measures 24" x 32", costs $15.00 and is available from the Children's Book Council P.O. Box 706, New York, NY 10726-0706.

AROUND THE STATE

School Librarian and Montana Library Services Advisory Council member, Rita Schmidt, has been appointed to serve the remainder of Ellen Newberg's term as American Library Association (ALA) Councilor from Montana. Newberg is leaving Montana to take a position in Washington state. (See story on page 1.)

The Pioneer Press in Cut Bank reports that the Blackfeet Community College Library is expanding to meet the needs of a broad segment of the community including adults and teenagers not attending the college. In October the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council designated the library as the official tribal library. The new librarian, Dr Jay H.C. Vest and the library staff recently held a successful open house to introduce the library to the reservation and surrounding communities.

When the citizens of Seeley Lake lost the services of the Missoula County Bookmobile last summer they were left without convenient access to a public library. Local residents responded to the loss by raising over $11,000 to expand their school's library to accommodate the needs of the general public. Now the library has expanded hours, more books, and a new part-time library aide.

Montana State Library Commission

Mary Hudetz, Chair
C.B. Anderson, Vice Chair
Dr. Hardy McClellan
Martha B. Davis
Nicolas Aldridge
Marie Thompson
Victoria Reuben

Commissioners addresses are in the Montana Library Directory

Jane Fenning, Ex-officio

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1515 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

Nonprofit Rate
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Helena, MT 59620

Al Randall, Librarian
Libby Senior High School
156 Education Way
LIBBY, MT 59923